

## Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 EA-11 FRB-02

INR-10 IO-14 NEA-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 OPIC-12 SPC-03

TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 SWF-02 OMB-01 NSC-07

SS-20 STR-08 L-03 OIC-04 PA-04 PRS-01 DRC-01 /182 W

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FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2076

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

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BRUSSELS FOR UNDER SEC. DONALDSON

NATO FOR ASST. SEC. HARTMAN

PASS CEA AND TREASURY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, OECD

SUBJECT: DATES FOR NEXT OECD MINISTERIAL COUNCIL MEETING

REF: (A) USOECD 5605 (B) USOECD 2978

1. IN COUNCIL MARCH 12 SEC GEN RETURNED AGAIN TO THE  
QUESTION OF DATES FOR ANNUAL OECD MINISTERIAL COUNCIL MEETING.  
HE SAID THAT NO COUNTRY ANY LONGER HAD INSURMOUNTABLE PROBLEM  
WITH PROPOSED DATES OF MAY 16-18. ONE COUNTRY, FRG, WOULD HAVE  
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DIFFICULTY ASSURING MINISTERIAL REPRESENTATION ON THOSE DATES

BECAUSE OF MAJOR BUDGET DEBATE IN BONN. ANOTHER COUNTRY, THE US, HAD NOT BEEN INSTRUCTED TO ACCEPT MAY 16-18. SECGEN URGED COUNCIL TO ACCEPT MAY 16-18 IN PRINCIPLE. HE INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT OTHER DATES, E.G. TOWARD THE END OF MAY, MIGHT BE CONSIDERED IF THEY COULD BE ACCEPTED UNANIMOUSLY BY COUNCIL. SECGEN APPEALED FOR EARLY FORMAL AGREEMENT ON MINISTERIAL DATES.

2. WE HAVE NOW REACHED POINT WHERE US AND FRG APPEAR TO BE ONLY DELS UNABLE FORMALLY TO APPROVE MAY 16-18 FOR NEXT MINISTERIAL COUNCIL. FRG WOULD APPARENTLY PREFER LATE MAY, AND AMBADDADOR EMMEL HAS SUGGESTED DATES OF MAY 29 AND 30 FOR POSSIBLE CONSIDERATION. HOWEVER, SINCE HE IS PRESENTLY VIRTUALLY ISOLATED - NOW THAT CANADA-JAPN CABINET BILATERAL APPARENTLY BEING POST-PONED, HE WOULD PROBABLY ACCEPT MAY 16-18.

3. COMMENT. I WISH TO POINT OUT THAT US HAS JUST SUCCEEDED, ONCE WE REACHED AN INTER-AGENCY POSITION, IN GETTING THE DATES OF THE XCSS MEETING POSTPONED. THIS LAST MINUTE PROPOSAL CAUSED INCONVENIENCE AND ANNOYANCE TO AUSTRALIAN AND JAPANESE DELEGATES, SOME OF WHOM HAD ALREADY TAKEN OFF FROM THEIR CAPITALS. AS TO OECD COUNCIL AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL, SECGEN HAS BEEN TRYING TO BE ACCOMMODATING IN SEARCHING DATES, BUT SETTLEMENT ON DATES FOR 24-COUNTRY MINISTERS' BUT SETTLEMENT ON DATES FOR 24-COUNTRY MINISTERS' MEETING REQUIRES LEAD TIME, AND TWO MONTHS IS HARDLY EXCESSIVE.

4. WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING BY OPENING OF BUSINESS MARCH 15, WASHINGTON AGREEMENT TO ONE OR BOTH OF DATES MENTIONED ABOVE. IF THAT IMPOSSIBLE, REQUEST USABLE COMMENTS OR SOME INDICATION OF CURRENT ATTITUDE TOWARD DATES. WE HAVE AVOIDED ANY SUGGESTION THAT OUR NON-POSITION IS LINKED TO ECG SCHEDULE, SO AS NOT TO GIVE AMMUNITION TO FRENCH. BUT THAT IMPRESSION CANNOT BE AVOIDED IF WE DELAY MUCH LONGER.  
BROWN

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